

## LUANSHYA, TYRESÖ OF SWEDEN TO ENTER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**STOCKHOLM** – 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018 – A team of four officials from Sweden will arrive in Zambia next week to sign an agreement that will see the partnering of Luanshya and Tyresö Municipality of Sweden.

The four officials will be in Zambia between 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 during which they will sign an initial one year agreement on waste management with Luanshya Municipal Council.

This came to light when the officials paid a courtesy call on Zambia's Ambassador to Sweden, Her Excellency, Ms. Rose Salukatula at her office in Stockholm yesterday.

Coordinator of the initiative on twining the two towns, Mrs. Helene Bergström said the partnership will later be extended for another three years during which a different project focusing on knowledge exchange with vulnerable groups in areas of democracy will be embarked on.

Mrs. Bergström said the project, sponsored by the Sweden-based International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) was two-way, in that it aimed at exposing women and children to the tenets of democracy as well as learn from the Zambian setting.

“We have applied to engage in a waste management project with the municipality of Luanshya for one year. We want to look at the possibilities of doing this after which we will apply for another three- year partnership project which could focus on vulnerable groups. We want to engage with vulnerable groups such as women and children on how to get them involved in democratic processes,” Mrs. Bergström said.

And Ambassador Salukatula said she was impressed to learn that the project would cover waste management as this was one of the Zambian Government's priority areas. She said government has made strides in addressing problems posed by waste around the country but still needed support in areas of expertise and other resources.

She appreciated the fact that the project will cover sharing of learnings in democratic processes and practices and hoped that it would also enable citizens realise that “democracy came with responsibilities.”

The Ambassador pointed out that it was good that the initiative aimed at empowering women with knowledge about democracy as this would help them realise how they could participate in development.

She noted that the project was progressive as it fell in line with Government's efforts of enhancing women participation in decision making and other national matters.

“Even as a government, we have been working towards empowering women so that they have a bigger role in all national governance processes. President Lungu himself has led the way in ensuring that women are given decision making positions.”

“Girls are also receiving special treatment in schools just to ensure that they advance in their education. So this initiative is welcome as it falls in line with Government's objectives. We believe that people should speak out so that government gets to understand their needs.

Others in the group travelling to Zambia are Mr. Mats William Fält, Mrs. Ingeborg Ulrica Sofia Riis-Pedersen and Mrs. Lena Britt-Marie Lundberg Björk.

Tyresö is a municipality situated on the Baltic coast about 14 kilometres south-east of Stockholm, the Swedish capital. Tyresö Municipality already has two twin towns, Cesis in Latvia and Savigny le Temple in France.

Tyresö ranks among the top 30 wealthiest out of the about 300 municipalities of Sweden.

Issued by:

**Nicky Shabolyo**  
**Counsellor**  
**ZAMBIAN EMBASSY IN SWEDEN**  
**Cell: +46 (0)700217618**  
**Email: [nshabolyo@gmail.com](mailto:nshabolyo@gmail.com)**